

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

October 6, 2011
5:15 P.M.

Members Present: Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Lori Hudson, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Shelley Rouser, Kathleen Thomas, and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

Members Absent: Whitney Price

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, John Carwell; Charter School Officer, Christopher Ruszkowski; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Teacher Preparation & Recruitment, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board Executive Director and Deb Stevens; DSEA.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:20 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to approve the October 6, 2011 Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of August 4, 2011: A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Ms. Hudson to approve the PSB Minutes of August 4, 2011. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels met with Mr. Walter Jordan-Davis at the end of August. Mr. Jordan-Davis is the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Regional Representative. Mr. Jordan-Davis and Mr. Michels discussed increasing the pool of NBPTS candidates in Delaware. Mr. Jordan-Davis indicated he was going to contact Ms. Deborah Stevens at DSEA. The Delaware Department of Education no longer participates in NBPTS initiatives except for processing the Advanced Licenses and the associated stipends.

- Mr. Michels said the PSB will receive the Delaware Leadership Project Quarterly Report update later in the meeting. On August 25th, Mr. Michels visited the group of aspiring principals during their last week of professional development in New Castle County. He noticed some positive changes in the participants who appeared to be feeling more comfortable and confident in their potential roles as principal residents. On Tuesday, October 4, 2011 there was some professional development at Maple Dale Country Club for both the DLP principal mentors and residents. By all accounts, it was a positive day for everyone. The residents are currently residing in elementary and middle school buildings and everyone was having an excellent experience. Mr. Michels hopes to get out and visit some of the residents and their schools in the next several months.
- Mr. Michels will be at the Department's Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality Development Quarterly Meeting next week when he will give the broad-based group updates as to the current directions the PSB is moving relative to licensure, certification, regulations and Praxis tests.
- Mr. Michels completed the October 1, 2011 Quarterly Legislative Report. Mr. Michels emailed copies that could be e-mailed and hand delivered copies that required hand delivery. He noted that PSB Members received a copy of this Report in their folders.
- Mr. Michels participated in the final judging of the 2012 Teacher of the Year. The celebration event will be held at Dover Downs on the evening of October 18, 2011
- Mr. Michels has a meeting scheduled with the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) Policy and Law Committee on October 18, 2011 to discuss HB107. HB107 is the bill the PSB tried to move forward relative to requiring educators to pass Praxis I prior to licensure and to allow specialists' prior experiences to be considered the equivalent of student teaching. After considering the upcoming GACEC comments, Mr. Michels, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Fontello will develop a plan and strategy to move the Bill forward at the onset of the DE General Assembly in January. Mr. Michels will be in contact with Representative Schooley, the Bill's initial Sponsor, with the latest conversation content.
- Mr. Michels informed the PSB members that there is an article in their folders regarding Delaware State University being awarded \$500,000 to establish a new Economic Development Center. Mr. Michels said Dr. Carson was the grant's principal writer for the grant. Dr. Casson, the PSB Higher Education representative, indicated that the grant will be for five years and that DSU is excited about it. He said the Development Center will be supporting two economic projects per year, per DE County.
- Mr. Michels said that PSB members Mr. Kohan and Mr. Kenton were noted in the September, 2011 edition of the DSEA *ACTION* newspaper.

IV. **DOE Report**

Mr. Michels introduced Mr. John Carwell, Charter School Officer. Mr. Carwell gave an overview of the charter school landscape, current charter school applications, the Charter School Accountability Committee role and membership, and the accountability impacts

of the latest legislation. He provided PSB members with three documents: the *Charter Schools Update*, the *Charter School Accountability Members and Fact Sheet: Delaware Charter School Legislation Increases Oversight and Accountability for Charter Schools*. Mr. Carwell referred the PSB to the *Charter Schools Update* document. He said this handout is a monthly update that is provided to the State Board of Education which provides an overview of all of the charter schools in Delaware with their school name, location, overall status rating and Department comments on where the charter schools stand to date. He noted that there are currently 22 charter schools; 3 of which are authorized by Red Clay Consolidated School District and the other 19 are authorized by the Department of Education. Three new charter schools opened this school year: the Delaware Academy for Public Safety and Security, Las Americas Aspira Academy and the Gateway Lab School. Last year, there was 1 charter school that opened: Reach Academy for Girls. Charters are authorized for an initial 4 years and 5 years after review and approval thereafter. The DOE Charter School Office is embarking on their renewal season this month. Mr. Carwell referred the PSB to the *Fact Sheet* handout which gave details regarding HB 205 that Governor Markell signed into law on August 19th. The purpose of HB205 was to strengthen education for Delaware children by increasing charter school accountability and improving oversight of charter schools.

V. **Action Items**

A. **1506 Emergency Certificate**

Mr. Michels has been monitoring Emergency Certificate data from DEEDS and *eschool* for well over a year. He built a significant Report that was filled with Emergency Certification data over time and provided copies to School Chiefs, District and Charter School Personnel Directors and others present at Dr. Barton's Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality Development Quarterly Meetings. The essential question posed was, "Does the data in the Report raise concerns, and if so how might they be ameliorated?" Minimal feedback was subsequently forwarded to Mr. Michels. Over the last several months the PSB reached consensus on a variety of broad policy decisions to be implemented into the amended regulation. These policy shifts were then built into new 1506 language with associated current language deletions. Mr. Michels noted that the amended regulation before the PSB was recently forwarded to the DOE's Leadership Team. DOE Associate Secretary Dr. Hodges told Mr. Michels that the DOE Leadership Team felt the changes were appropriate. Mr. Michels referred the PSB to the 1 page handout in their folders in which he had compared the current language with the proposed amended language. Mr. Michels then went through the amended regulation section by section with the PSB members. Some minimal suggestions were made to language in certain sections and some renumbering facilitated as necessary. After some discussion and clarifications, Ms. Thomas asked for motion to publish 1506 Emergency Certificate as amended. A motion was made by Ms. Devard and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to publish the ***1506 Emergency Certificate*** as amended. The motion carried. Subsequent to the vote, several Members lauded Mr. Michels for his diligence, perseverance and commitment to making positive and what are considered critical changes in this regulation.

B. 1505 Standard Certificate

Mr. Michels quickly reviewed the current amendments with the Board. A few minor changes had been made since the previous iteration, which the Board had seen during earlier PSB meetings. Mr. Michels reminded the Board that the majority of amendments in definitions and coursework or professional development approval were based on requests and following discussions with the Department. After minimal discussion, Ms. Thomas asked for motion to publish as amended. A motion was made by Ms. Hudson and seconded by Dr. Rouser to publish the *1505 Standard Certificate* as amended. The motion carried.

C. 2011-2012 Mentor and Lead Mentor Stipends

The PSB is required to review and annually approve Mentor and Lead Mentor Stipends. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Thomas asked for motion to approve the following amounts:

Lead Mentors	\$1,500.00
Mentors (teacher, specialist and administrator)	
Mentoring 1 first year teacher, specialist or administrator	\$ 750.00
Mentoring 2 first year teachers, specialists or administrators	\$1,000.00
Mentoring 3 first year teachers, specialists or administrators	\$1,250.00

A motion was made by Ms. Rouser and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to approve *2011-2012 Mentor and Lead Mentor Stipends*. With one abstention by Ms. Lewandowski, the motion carried.

D. 2011-2012 Approved Clusters

The PSB is required to review and annually approve valid clusters, which are those that are still within their 5 year approval window. As of 9/1/2011, there are 46 valid clusters. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Thomas asked for motion to approve. A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to approve the *2011-2012 Approved Clusters*. The motion carried.

E. 2012 DE TOY Honorarium

The PSB has a standing tradition of presenting the Delaware Teacher of the Year (DE TOY) with a \$250.00 honorarium. Ms. Thomas asked for motion to approve a \$250.00 Honorarium to be presented to the 2012 DE TOY. A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Mr. Kenton to approve the *2012 DE TOY Honorarium*. The motion carried.

VI. Discussion

A. 1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities

Being proactive with the review of this regulation, Mr. Michels told the Board he had sent out a draft of regulation 1573 to a variety of advocacy groups including the Governor's Counsel for Exceptional Children (GACEC) and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD). He referred the PSB to the recent return letters from the GACEC and SCPD in their folders. Mr. Michels is hopeful that other advocacy groups will respond in the near future. Due to time meeting constraints, further discussion was limited.

VII. Presentation

Mr. Michels introduced Mr. Ruszkowski who presented the September 1, 2011 Delaware Leadership Project (DLP) Quarterly Report. He referred the PSB to the Report in their folders and reminded them he had sent the Report electronically on 9/1/2011. Mr. Ruszkowski summarized the Report. Seven candidates began training with DLP on June 27, 2011. One candidate did not successfully complete the Summer Intensive Program, and was released from the Program on July 27th. There are currently six candidates at the following LEAs: 1 within Cape Henlopen School District (with PSB Member Dr. Greaves), 1 within Capital School District, 2 within Red Clay Consolidated School District, and 2 within Christina School District. Mr. Ruszkowski said he will soon begin his monitoring duties by shadowing each candidate for 2 hours at their site. Upcoming work includes Innovative Schools' recruitment for the 2nd cohort which will begin in mid-October, 2011, and providing the second training session for mentor principals which is scheduled to occur on October 4th. DLP aspiring principals who successfully complete the residency will progress to the next steps of the program next June. Upon completion of the follow-up professional development next June, the DLP will recommend those they feel have successfully completed the program for the School Principal Standard Certificate. The DLP will then assist graduates as they interview for and transition into school leadership roles and then provide two years of ongoing coaching and participation within the DLP network. Mr. Ruszkowski then answered questions and concerns posed by the PSB.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

IX. Other

None.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Devard and seconded by Dr. Greaves to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.